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3 August 1950

Chief, Plans & Policy Staff, ORE

Chief, Far East/Pacific Division, ORE

Time lapse in OSO receipt of ORE evaluations

1. During the month of July, D/FE received 601 SO reports and 269 OO reports, making a total of 870 reports to be evaluated.

2. Recognizing the great burden evaluating this number of reports would be on the various Branches, I brought up at the Staff Meeting on 12 July the question of revising the old CIG directive on evaluations. This directive required that all SO reports be evaluated as quickly as possible and returned to the appropriate Division in OSO. It was also pointed out at the Staff Meeting that a great many of these reports, especially from Korea, were military and tactical in nature, which, of course, were of extreme value at the time received but, because of the fluid military situation, such reports were quickly outdated. These reports were first received on the teletype and followed from two to five days later by the usual ditto report. At the time this question was brought forward at the Staff Meeting, Mr. Babbitt suggested that certain discretionary powers be used in the selection of reports to be evaluated, pending revision of the old CIG directive.

3. In checking this office on time lag, I find that there is from two to three days lapse between the stamped date of distribution put on the report in OSO/ICS ([redacted] office) and the date put on the report when it arrives in Information Control, D/FE. Apparently the responsibility for this lag can be placed on OCD. After the report arrives in this Division, it is all too frequently set aside because of more important and more urgent work but must be evaluated and cleared of this Division by Friday of the week it arrives. This adds from one to 5 days to the time lag. Because of the urgency for estimates and research on a wide variety of priority subjects stimulated by the present Far East crisis, it is doubtful whether D/FE can improve much on the speed in handling SO evaluations.

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4. This situation is, no doubt, typical of most Divisions and it is my conviction that, if SO is receiving from 30 to 40 per cent evaluations with little more than a 5-day time lapse, the record does not appear to be too bad. It would be helpful, of course, if the distribution technic could be improved on. This alone would cut down from two to three, and sometimes more, days before the analysts can go to work on the report.

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